RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 21st March, 2005/30 Phalguna, 1926 (Saka)

The House met at six minutes past eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Good morning, Sir. We are five minutes late today. It is nearly seven minutes past eleven of the clock.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: There was a programme in the Central Hall.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: There might have been a programme in the Central Hall. But will it be repeated, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it should not be repeated. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: It is an important thing. ...(*Interruptions*)... Is it a good practice, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree with you, it should not be repeated.

ऐतिहासिक भवन और स्मारक

*261. **श्री अबू आसिम आजमी:** क्या संस्कृति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ऐतिहासिक भवनों और स्मारकों की स्वयं देखरेख करती है अथवा कोई निजी उपक्रम और संस्थान इनकी देखरेख करते हैं;

(ख) यदि यह कार्य निजी संस्थानों द्वारा किया जा रहा है तो क्या वे इन ऐतिहासिक भवनों और स्मारकों की देखरेख उचित रीति से कर रहे हैं; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो क्या सरकार भविष्य में इन भवनों और स्मारकों की देखरेख का कार्य निजी संस्थानों को सौंपने पर विचार कर रही है?

संस्कृति मंत्री (श्री एस॰ जयपाल रेड्डी): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण प्राचीन संस्मारक तथा पुरातत्वीय स्थल और अवशेष अधिनियम,

1958 के तहत संरक्षित सभी स्मारकों के परिरक्षण, संरक्षण तथा अनुरक्षण कार्यों की देखभाल करता है।

(ख) किसी केन्द्रीय संरक्षित स्मारक अथवा ऐतिहासिक भवन की देखरेख किसी भी प्राइवेट संस्था द्वारा नहीं की जाती है।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

Historical buildings and monuments

†*261. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government take care of the historical buildings and monuments themselves or through any private undertakings and institutions;

(b) if it is being done by the private institutions whether they are taking care of these historical buildings and monuments properly; and

(c) if not, whether Government are considering to assign the work of taking care of these buildings and monuments to private institutions in future?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Archaeological Survey of India takes care of the protection, conservation and maintenance of all the monuments which are protected under AM&ASR Act 1958.

(b) No Centrally protected monument or historical building is taken care of by any private institutions.

(c) No Sir.

††**श्री अबू आसिम आजमी:** सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब से जानना चाहता हूं कि देश में कितने ऐतिहासिक भवनों और स्मारकों को केन्द्र सरकार ने अपने रख-रखाव में लिया है और पिछले तीन वर्षों में इन भवनों के रख-रखाव के लिए किन-किन संस्थाओं को कितनी मात्रा में धनराशि आबंटित की गई है?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

††Transliteration of Urdu Script.

شری ابو عاصم اعظمی : سبھاپتی مہودے، میں آپ کے مادھیم سے آنریبل منسٹر صاحب سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ دیش میں کتنے اِیتہاسک بھونوں اور اسمارکوں کو کیندر سرکار نے اپنے رکھ رکھاؤ میں لیا ہے اور پچھلے تین سالوں میں ان بھونوں کے رکھ رکھاؤ کے لئے کن کن سنستھاؤں کو کتنی ماترا میں دھن راشی آونٹت کی گئی ہے؟

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, there are more than 3,600 Centrally-protected monuments and historical buildings which are taken care of by the Archaeological Survey of India. Sir, immediately, I would not be able to provide the figures, though I would like to, because the question does not relate to that.

††**श्री अबू आसिम आजमी:** सर, मेरा सैकिंड सप्लीमेंट्री है कि सरकार ने राजधानी और उत्तर प्रदेश में किन-किन सरकारी और गैर सरकारी संस्थाओं को इन भवनों के रख-रखाव के लिए धनराशि आबंटित की है और इन संस्थाओं के खिलाफ, इन भवनों और स्मारकों के खराब रख-रखाव के बारे में, क्या कोई शिकायत मिली है? यदि हां, तो सरकार ने उस पर कोई कार्रवाई की है या नहीं?

شری ابو عاصم اعظمی : سر، میرا سیکنڈ سپلیمینٹری ہے کہ سرکار نے راجدھانی اور اتر پردیش میں کن کن سرکاری اور غیر سرکاری سنستھاؤں کو ان بھونوں کے رکھ رکھاؤ کے لئے دھن راشی آونٹت کی ہے اور ان سنستھاؤں کے خلاف، ان بھونوں اور اسمارکوں کے خراب رکھ رکھاؤ کے بارے میں، کیا کوئی شکایت ملی ہے؟ اگر ہاں، تو سرکار نے اس پر کوئی کاروائی کی ہے یا نہیں؟

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I have already clarified in the written answer. The monuments which are under the charge of the Government of India, and also the sites, are not taken care of by any private body. It is another matter that we take cooperation from some private firms in regard to the work of restoration. That is an attempt to raise funds. No complaint, to the best of my knowledge, has been received in this regard.

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सभापति महोदय, ऐतिहासिक इमारतों और भवनों से संबंधित यह महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है। उत्तर प्रदेश की बात मूल प्रश्न में कही गई है। उत्तर प्रदेश में कई जगहों पर, कई जिलों में, जो कि ऐतिहासिक दृष्टि से, ऐतिहासिक इमारतों की दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण हैं, वहां के उन ऐतिहासिक स्मारकों और भवनों को ध्वस्त किया जा रहा है। मैं रामपुर, जो कि ऐतिहासिक और

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††Transliteration of Urdu Script

सांस्कृतिक दृष्टि से एक महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है, के बारे में कहना चाहता हूं कि वहां पर कई पुराने भवन, दिल्ली गेट जैसे कई महत्वपूर्ण और ऐतिहासिक स्थानों को ध्वस्त कर दिया गया है और उस स्थान पर प्रदेश सरकार के एक मंत्री ने अपना बड़ा भारी पिलर, बोर्ड लगाया है। मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को इस बारे में जानकारी है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के रामपुर जिले में एक मंत्री द्वारा वहां के ऐतिहासिक स्तंभों को, ऐतिहासिक इमारतों को ध्वस्त करके अपने नाम के बड़े-बड़े पिलर बनाए गए हैं?

दूसरा यह है कि अभी ताज महल के बारे में भी तमाम तरह के विवादास्पद बयान उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के ही एक मंत्री द्वारा दिए जा रहे हैं और कहा जा रहा है कि ताज महल को वक्फ बोर्ड के हवाले किया जाना चाहिए। क्या ताजमहल को वक्फ बोर्ड के हवाले किए जाने जैसा कोई गंभीर विषय केन्द्र सरकार की जानकारी में है?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the hon. Member has referred to two distinct things. It shall be my endeavour to answer them. As for his reference to Rampur structure, I am not aware whether it is part of the number of structures to be looked after by the ASI. But I have taken note of the matter. I will look into it and I will write to him.

As for Taj Mahal, though it does not relate to the question, I would like to respond. Some claim has been made to Taj Mahal. Our ASI has received some representation. It is being looked into from legal angle. I can't say anything more at this stage.

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: What is the legal angle?

श्री सभापति: बस ठीक है, ठीक है, हो गया।

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: लेकिन वह लीगल एंगल क्या है? सभापति जी, महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि प्रदेश सरकार के एक मंत्री लगातार कह रहे हैं कि ताजमहल एक कब्र है और उसे ऐतिहासिक स्थल के रूप में नहीं रहना चाहिएं....

श्री सभापति: आप उसे छोड़िए और मेरी बात सुन लीजिए।

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: लेकिन उसके बाद आप लीगल एंगल की बात कर रहे हैं। उसकी वास्तविक स्थिति क्या है, इसे आप बताएं? क्या इसके बारे में केन्द्र सरकार कुछ विचार कर रही है?

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए। विचार तो अभी हो रहा है।

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I have no problem. The Taj Mahal continues to be the prime monument of the country. It is being taken care of by the ASI. If some representation is received, it is also being looked into. There is nothing objectionable about it.

MR. M.S. GILL: Sir, I want to join Mr. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi in expressing grave concern about the situation of the Archaeological Survey of India and the situation there. There is neither money, nor is there any supervision, nor has it the ability to take care of such a large number of monuments. I have seen every monument in India. The Raza Library at Rampur I can talk of. Will the Minister review this seriously and try to have a new worthwhile and extensive policy, including the role of private industry or private houses or anything else? I have seen the Egyptian model. It is totally different. All that I can say is that it is unsatisfactory and India needs to do something about it. Will the Minister consider this?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the hon. Member is a very knowledgeable, scholarly person. I value his opinion. But I can't say that I agree with him because he has made a sweeping generalisation. Since we are aware of the fact that the funds at our disposal are limited and will always remain limited, we are open to the idea of cooperation from private partners. We have a National Culture Fund through which we try to seek cooperation from the private firms. That idea of his is indeed welcome.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, thank you. The Minister was just talking about funds. I would like to know from the Minister whether any assessment, formal or informal, has been made; and what the percentage of amount that has actually been spent on the repairs of these monuments is. Is the Minister aware, as far the assessment goes, that it is hardly two per cent and the rest of the amount is spent on transport and other overheads?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I don't have the figures. But I can tell the hon. Member, Jaya Bachchanji, that her idea of expenditure on transport is highly exaggerated. I would inform her of the real figures.

SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR: Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply said that none of the monuments had been handed over to the private institutions for taking care of. He said that they had extended cooperation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the demarcation of roles and reponsibilities given to these private parties by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Sir, there are more than 13,000 identified monuments. Out of that, 3,700 monuments have been taken care of by the Government. What about the rest of them? How are they going to be taken care of?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, apart from 3,600 odd monuments which are being taken care of by the Archaeological Survey of India, the rest of them are taken care of by the respective State Governments. I can give one example of the kind of private-public partnership. We are all aware, Sir, of the Humanyun's Tomb. The Agha Khan Foundation lent its helping hand in restoring the great gardens of the Humanyun's Tomb. This kind of cooperation we seek from private partners. Even while doing so, the ASI retains its say from 'A' to 'Z'.

Night Shelter Scheme

*262. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any Night Shelter Scheme for the shelterless and pavement dwellers;

(b) if so, when the scheme was introduced; and

(c) the funds released so far, by Government for this scheme State and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Night Shelter Scheme was introduced in 1988-89 to provide Night Shelter and Pay & Use toilet facilities to urban shelterless.

The Scheme was modified in August 1992 to cover all urban centres having concentration of footpath dwellers/homeless and renamed as "Shelter & Sanitation Facilities for footpath Dwellers in Urban Areas." Since October, 2002, the scheme has been revised and renamed as "Night Shelter for Urban Shelterless." The scheme is now limited to construction of composite Night Shelters with community toilets and baths for urban shelterless. This is a demand driven scheme and its implementation is undertaken by the State Government or local municipal bodies or State sponsored agencies and proposals are mooted by them. Under the scheme, Government of India subsidy of 50% of the cost of construction (subject to cost ceiling of Rs. 20,000 per bed) is given to implementing agencies